NO.
IT'S NOT ABOUT MAKING A MASTERPIECE.
I GUESS IT'S ABOUT BEING HONEST.

HONEST LIKE HOW?
WELL,
I LIKE WHEN I'M READING SOMETHING
AND
IT FEELS REAL. LIKE THE STUFF THAT WOULD BE CONSIDERED A SIN TO CHRISTIANS. THE SIN OF CREATION.

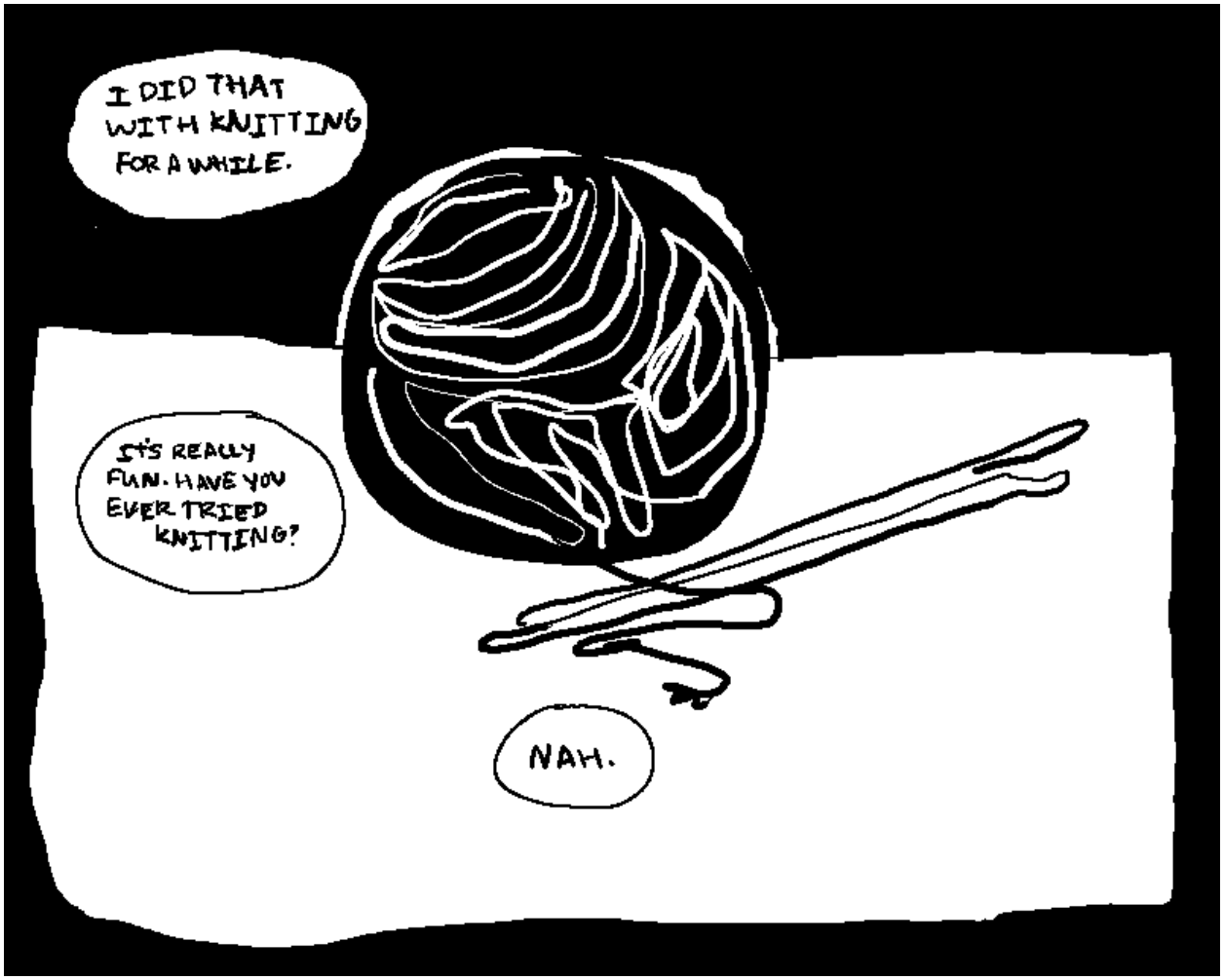
BUT, ISN'T THAT A MASTERPIECE?
NO.
I DON'T UNDERSTAND. YOU HAD ME AT FIRST.

WELL,
HAVE YOU EVER SEEN THOSE REALLY REALISTIC PAINTINGS? AND
THEY'RE LIKE
YEAH, IT'S A GUY LOOKING BUFF AND HOT, BUT
YOU'VE NEVER SEEN A GUY THAT BUFF OR HOT.

BUT THEN,
HAVE YOU SEEN THAT GUY WHO PAINTS BIG MACS IN OIL PAINT?
OH. HUH.

LIKE
REALLY GORGEOUS PAINTINGS OF HAMBURGERS AND STUFF.
AND YOU SEE THEM, AND IT'S WEIRD. BECAUSE ITS IN THE STYLE OF CLASSICAL MASTERS,
BUT YOU KNOW WHAT A BIG MAC IS.

YEAH. I GET THAT.
YEAH, LIKE THAT EXCEPT I WRITE.



No, it’s not about making a masterpiece. I guess it's about being honest.

Honest like how?

Well I like when I’m reading something and it feels real. Like the stuff that would be considered a sin to Christians or whatever. Like the sin of creation.

But isn’t that a masterpiece?

No.

I don’t understand. You had me at first.

Well, have you ever seen those really realistic paintings? And they're like yeah it's a guy looking buff and hot but you've never seen a guy that buff or hot. But then have you seen that guy who paints big macs in oil paint?

Oh huh.

Like really gorgeous paintings of hamburgers and stuff. And you see them and it's weird because it's in the style of these classical masters but you know what a big mac is.

Yeah I kind of get it.

Yeah like that, except I write.

I did that with knitting for a while. It's really fun. Have you ever tried knitting?

Nah.

Well my mom taught me how to knit. It was fun, but it's really hard, so I guess my knitting is more lifelike, because it wasn't clean. It had gaping holes. All sorts of technical errors. Ha.

That's fun. I never thought about it like that. Bad art is kinda cool because it's like yeah I could do that. Then the reader is invested.

Do you remember being a kid and thinking that the world is a story?

Yeah I do. I thought I was the main guy, like a superhero. Except when I turned 11 and that guy touched me on the escalator. I thought he had ruined the story.

Jesus.

Yeah. I didn't tell anyone because it was like a bad chapter or something. Like bad writing cause you know Lizzy McGuire was never getting groped at the Nordstrom.

Were you feeling guilty?

Nah. It's not like I thought it was my fault. My parents taught me better than that. They were really concerned and supportive. I knew it wasn't something to be guilty about. But like I thought it had ruined the story so it annoyed me.

That's so dark.

Yeah, I guess. Sorry.

(Pause)

So, writing?

Yeah.

Yeah.